

### Amendments to the Claims

1 – 13 (cancelled)

14. (new) A method of preventing or treating thrombocytopenia in a subject, said method comprising administering to said subject an inhibitor of PACAP signalling.
15. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the inhibitor of PACAP signalling targets expressed PACAP.
16. (new) The method according to claim 14, wherein the inhibitor of PACAP signaling targets expressed VIP.
17. (new) The method according to claim 14, wherein the inhibitor of PACAP signaling targets a receptor for PACAP.
18. (new) The method according to claim 17, wherein said receptor for PACAP is the PACAP receptor (PACAPR), VPAC1 or VPAC2.
19. (new) The method according to claim 14, wherein the inhibitor inhibits the transcription or translation of PACAP, VIP or a receptor of PACAP.
20. (new) The method according to claim 19 wherein said receptor for PACAP is the PACAP receptor (PACAPR), VPAC1 or VPAC2.
21. (new) The method according to claims 14, wherein said inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of an antisense molecule, a RNAi, an aptamer, a small

molecule, an antibody, a ribozyme, a transdominant receptor, and a tetrameric peptide.

22. (new) The method according to claims 14, wherein said inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of max.d.4 5, PACAP6-38, [4Cl-D-Phe6, Leu17]VIP, VIP(10-28), cyclic lactam analogs of PACAP, [AcHis(1), D-Phe(2), Lys(15), Leu(17)]VIP(3-7)/GRF(8-27), PACAP receptor blocking Cyclic lactam PACAP analogs, N-terminal truncated or substituted VIP peptide PACAP receptor blockers, neutralizing antibodies against VPAC(1) and neutralising aptamer against VPAC(1) receptor.
23. (new) The method according to claim 14, wherein said inhibitor is an anti-PACAP antibody or a antigen-binding fragment thereof.
24. (new) The method according to claim 14, wherein said thrombocytopenia is infection-induced thrombocytopenia or treatment-induced thrombocytopenia.
25. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an inhibitor of PACAP signalling and an additional compound for enhancing megakaryocyte maturation.
26. (new) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 25 wherein the compound for enhancing megakaryocyte maturation is thrombopoetin or Interleukin 11.